

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-10, 12, and 15-19 as follows. Please add new claim 20 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A network name resolving element for performing name resolving in a network system which includes a first network using a first network protocol and a second network using a second network protocol~~An apparatus, the network element comprising:

a name resolving unit configured to perform name resolving;

a first connection unit configured to provide a first direct connection to ~~the a~~ first network, using a first network protocol;

a second connection unit configured to provide a second direct connection to ~~the a~~ second network using a second network protocol, such that wherein, when the name resolving unit in the first network must forward a name resolving request to a domain name service server in the second network, the name resolving request is sent directly from the name resolving unit in the first network to the second network; and

an address translation unit configured to perform address translation between the first network and the second network;

wherein the name resolving unit and the address translation unit are configured to co-operate in order to translate addresses upon performing name resolving.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~network name resolving element~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~network element is~~ apparatus comprises a domain name service server.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~network name resolving element~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the address translation unit is configured to select a particular network address translating element to be used for a connection between a first host in the first network and a second host in the second network, and
wherein the address translation unit is configured to add network address translating element information to the resolved address.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~network name resolving element~~ apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the network address translating element information is an address prefix.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~network name resolving element~~ apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the address translation unit is configured to select a network address translating element based on information regarding the load on the network address translating element.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~network name resolving element apparatus~~ according to claim 1, wherein the first protocol is ~~Internet Protocol~~ internet protocol version 6, and the second protocol is ~~Internet Protocol~~ internet protocol version 4.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~network name resolving element apparatus~~ according to claim 1, wherein the name resolving unit of the ~~network element apparatus~~ is configured to send a name resolve request to a name resolving element located in the second network.

8. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
a network name resolving element and at least two network address translating elements,
the network name resolving element ~~being for performing~~ configured to perform name resolving in a network system which includes a first network using a first network protocol and a second network using a second network protocol, the network element comprising

a name resolving unit configured to perform name resolving,
a first connection unit configured to provide a first direct connection to the first network,

a second connection unit configured to provide a second direct connection to the second network, such that when the name resolving unit in the first network must forward

a name resolving request to a domain name service server in the second network, the name resolving request is sent directly from the name resolving unit in the first network to the second network, and

an address translation unit configured to perform address translation between the first network and the second network,

wherein the name resolving unit and the address translation unit are configured to co-operate in order to translate addresses upon performing name resolving,

wherein the address translation unit is configured to select a particular network address translating element to be used for a connection between a first host in the first network and a second host in the second network,

wherein the address translation unit is configured to add network address translating element information to the resolved address, and

wherein the address translation unit is configured to select a network address translating element based on information regarding the load on the network address translating element, and

wherein the network address translating elements are configured to send load information to the network element.

9. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 8, wherein the load information is sent using a ~~Simple Network Management Protocol~~ simple network management protocol.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for resolving names in a network system which includes a first network using a first network protocol and a second network using a second network protocol, comprising:

processing a name resolve request to obtain an address; and

performing address translation between ~~the~~ a first network using a first network protocol and ~~the~~ a second network using a second network protocol,

wherein the name resolve request processing and the address translation are performed in a dedicated network name resolving element ~~for performing~~ configured to perform name resolving located in the first network and having ~~direct connections~~ a first direct connection to the first network and a second direct connection to the second network, such that when the name resolving unit in the first network must forward a name resolving request to a domain name service server in the second network, the name resolving request is sent directly from the name resolving unit in the first network to the second network.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the network element is a domain name service server.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the performing address translation comprises

selecting a particular address network translating element to be used for a connection between a first host (A) in the first network and a second host in the second network; and

adding network address translating element information indicating the selected network translating element to the translated address.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the network address translating element information is an address prefix.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein in the selecting, different network address translating elements are selected based on information regarding the load on the network address translating elements.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the first network protocol is ~~Internet Protocol~~ internet protocol version 6, and the second network protocol is ~~Internet Protocol~~ internet protocol version 4.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:

sending load information from at least two network address translating elements to the network element.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the load information is sent using ~~Simple Network Management Protocol~~ simple network management protocol.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the processing a name resolve request ~~processing~~ comprises
forwarding a name resolve request from the first network directly to a network name resolving element in the second network; and
receiving an address from the name resolving element in the second network.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A network name resolving element for performing name resolving in a network system which includes a first network using a first network protocol and a second network using a second network protocol~~ An apparatus, the network name resolving element comprising:

means for performing name resolving,

means for providing a first direct connection to ~~the~~ a first network using a first network protocol;

means for providing a second direct connection to ~~the~~ a second network using a second network protocol, such that when the means for performing name resolving in the first network must forward a name resolving request to a server in the second network,

the name resolving request is sent directly from the means for performing name resolving in the first network to the second network[[;]]; and

means for performing address translation between the first network and the second network;

wherein the means for performing name resolving and the means for performing address translation are configured to co-operate in order to translate addresses upon performing name resolving.

20. (New) A computer program, embodied on a computer readable medium, configured to control a processor to implement a method, the method, comprising:

processing a name resolve request to obtain an address; and

performing address translation between a first network using a first network protocol and a second network using a second network protocol,

wherein the processor is located in a dedicated network name resolving element configured to perform name resolving located in the first network and having a first direct connection to the first network and a second direction connection to the second network, such that when the name resolving unit in the first network must forward a name resolving request to a domain name service server in the second network, the name resolving request is sent directly from the name resolving unit in the first network to the second network.